

Hanson Economic Development Committee  
Approved Minutes of the Meeting  
April 5, 2021 at 5:00 pm  
Virtually via GOTO Meeting

Call to Order:

At 5:00 PM a virtual Economic Development Committee was called to order by Laura Fitzgerald Kemmett followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: John Stanbrook, Town Administrator  
Deborah Pettey, Town Planner  
Laura Fitzgerald Kemmett, Selectwoman  
Jim Geronaitis, joined meeting at  
Dan Bathalon  
Kevin Cohen

Absent: Kiran Kodali

Documents: Flyer for the Business Survey  
Map outlining target area to distribute the Business Survey

Minutes: Moved to later in meeting

Introductions:

Kevin Cohen introduced himself to the Committee and told us a little about himself and why he is interested in being on this Committee.

Updates for Local Rapid Recovery Grant

The Local Rapid Recovery Grant is a planning Grant whereby the state assigns a consulting firm, in this case, Stantec Consulting, to the Town to assess the current conditions of the Designated Business area and develop strategies to help the local businesses in that area recover from the effects of the Pandemic. The designated business area is entitled South Hanson Village, and starts approximately at the intersection of Main Street and High Street and goes along Main St until just past Ace Hardware where the little plaza is. The Goal is to try to develop strategies that may help local businesses recover from the effects the pandemic had on their businesses. Stantec will create a report that will delineate those strategies.

Deborah Pettey and Jim Geronaitis met the Consultant on Main Street and walked with him to show him the designated area and began distributing fliers requesting the local businesses complete the online Survey. The Business Survey created by the state in order to collect consistent information from small businesses will need to be completed by April 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee deliberated on what the best way was to get the Flier with the survey link in it out to those businesses in the designated area. The committee decided the best outreach approach for this would be to go in person to all the businesses in the designated area. Deb will create lists for each member to utilize and go to the businesses within that address range.

**TASK 1: DEB IS GOING TO SEND EACH MEMBER A LIST OF BUSINESSES BY ADDRESS TO GO TO IN PERSON TO ASK THEM TO COMPLETE THE BUSINESS SURVEY.**

Addresses:

1000-1100 Main Street - Laura

1100-1200 Main Street - Dan

1200-1300 Main Street - Kevin

1300-1400 Main Street - Jim

Discuss Goals of Committee:

***Short Term Goals:***

- 1.) Disburse Business Survey for South Hanson Village
  - a. Each member will take a group of addresses
- 2.) Business Outreach.
  - a. Possible Survey
  - b. In-person meetings
  - c. Meet them where they are

***Long Term Goals:***

- 3.) Redevelop Main Street;
  - a. Sewer
- 4.) What type of Town do we want to be
  - a. What type of businesses do we want to attract
  - b. What types of businesses will produce the needed revenues
- 5.) Review Zoning Bylaws and Zoning Districts to make them more business friendly
  - a. Expedite Permitting
  - b. Allow Home based Businesses
  - c. Ease Approval Process

**TASK 2: REVIEW ZONING BYLAWS AND LOOK AT WAYS TO CHANGE THEM TO BECOME MORE CONDUSIVE TO THE TYPE OF BUSINESSES WE WANT TO ATTRACT.**

Reorganization of Committee

Re-vote Vice Chair: Mr. Kodali had not yet been sworn in and his vote is null.

Jim Geronaitis made a motion to elect Dan Bathalon Vice Chairman of the Economic Development Committee. Kevin Cohen seconded that Motion. Roll Call: Kevin Cohen "Aye", Jim Geronaitis "Aye"; Dan Bathalon "Aye"; Laura Fitzgerald Kemmett "Aye"

#### Schedule Future Meetings

Next Meeting scheduled for April 12, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

#### Minutes

Jim Geronaitis made a Motion to approve the March 8, 2021 Meeting minutes, Dan Bathalon Seconded the Motion:

Roll Call: Jim Geronaitis "Aye"; Dan Bathalon "Aye" Laura Fitzgerald Kemmett "Aye"

Kevin Cohen-Abstained from Voting

#### **TASK 3: JOHN TO SEND OUT MISSION STATEMENT**

#### Adjournment

Dan Bathalon made a motion to adjourn meeting; Kevin Cohen seconded the motion,

Roll call: Kevin Cohen "Aye", Jim Geronaitis "Aye"; Dan Bathalon "Aye"; Laura Fitzgerald Kemmett "Aye"

Meeting Adjourned at 6:06 PM.